



February 17, 2009

For more information, contact Peter Hancock  
Public Information Officer  
785/296-5603  
[Peter.Hancock@khpa.ks.gov](mailto:Peter.Hancock@khpa.ks.gov)

## **Gov. Sebelius Lends Support for SCHIP Expansion** *Legislative Action Needed to Implement 2008 Plan*

(TOPEKA) – The Kansas Health Policy Authority Board voted today to seek additional funding from the Kansas Legislature in order to expand the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) in Fiscal Year 2010. The action came after Gov. Kathleen Sebelius spoke to the Board and reiterated her support for expanding program to insure children in families up to 250 percent of the federal poverty level who do not have access to private health insurance.

Last year, lawmakers authorized expanding SCHIP to cover children in families up to 250 percent of the federal poverty level. However, that change was subject to additional state appropriation and the availability of additional federal funds. In January, President Barack Obama signed a bill that provides the necessary federal funding. KHPA estimates that another \$1.2 million in state funds would be needed to draw down the additional federal money.

Currently in Kansas, SCHIP covers children in families up to 200 percent of federal poverty level. As of Jan. 31, 2009, more than 39,000 Kansas children were enrolled in the program. The Kansas Health Policy Authority estimates that 8,000 additional children would eventually be covered if Kansas lawmakers provide funding for the expanded eligibility.

Gov. Sebelius addressed the KHPA Board at the start of its regular monthly meeting in Topeka. In addition to encouraging the expansion of SCHIP, Gov. Sebelius expressed her strong support for a statewide clean indoor air law, which was among KHPA’s top legislative priorities in 2009. The Kansas Senate today gave final approval to a clean indoor air bill that would ban smoking in virtually all workplaces and public establishments in Kansas. That bill now goes to the House of Representatives for consideration.

-30-

Rm. 900-N, Landon Building, 900 SW Jackson Street, Topeka, KS 66612-1220  
[www.khpa.ks.gov](http://www.khpa.ks.gov)

Medicaid and HealthWave:  
Phone: 785-296-3981  
Fax: 785-296-4813

State Employee Health  
Benefits and Plan Purchasing:  
Phone: 785-368-6361  
Fax: 785-368-7180

State Self Insurance Fund:  
Phone: 785-296-2364  
Fax: 785-296-6995